

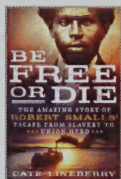
Boston Public Library

black is...

Books about the African American Experience
Booklist for Adults | 2018



BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR



Be Free or Die: The Amazing Story of Robert Smalls' Escape from Slavery to Union Hero

By Cate Lineberry

This is the little-known story of Robert Smalls, a man who frees himself, his family, and several other slaves in 1862 and later becomes one of the first African Americans elected to the House of Representatives.

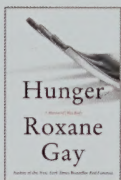
BIOG E185.97 .S6 L56 2017

Chasing Space: An Astronaut's Story of Grit, Grace, and Second Chances

By Leland Melvin

The former NFL wide receiver and hearing-impaired astronaut Leland Melvin shares his story.

BIOG TL789.85 .M46 A3 2017x



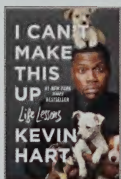
Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body

By Roxane Gay

Roxane Gay explores the complexity of loathing and loving her body under the weight of a traumatic sexual assault that

happened in her youth.

BIOG BF697.5 .B63 G39 2017X



I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons

By Kevin Hart with Neil Strauss

Superstar actor and comedian Kevin Hart shares his comical and inspirational stories of survival, success, and self-confidence.

BIOG PN2287 .H26 A3 2017X

Madame President: The Extraordinary Journey of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

By Helene Cooper

This book tells the story of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and the first female president of Liberia.

BIOG DT636.53 .J64 C66 2017



The Meaning of Michelle: 16 Writers on the Iconic First Lady and How Her Journey Inspires Our Own

Edited by Veronica Chambers

Contemporary African American authors explore Michelle Obama's unique impact on black beauty standards, class politics, and parenting.

BIOG E909 .O24 M43 2017



My Life, My Love, My Legacy

By Coretta Scott King, as told to Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds

Towards the end of her life, Mrs. Coretta Scott King told her life story to one of her closest friends.

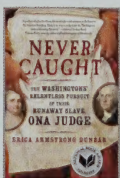
BIOG E185.97 .K47 A3 2017

My Soul Looks Back: A Memoir

By Jessica B. Harris

Jessica Harris shares stories of her life in New York during the 1970s, from her experiences as an editor at *Essence* magazine and frequenter of the jazz clubs and restaurants of Manhattan to her friendships with Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and James Baldwin.

BIOG TX649 .H348 A3 2017

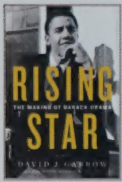


Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge

By Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Dunbar shines a light on Ona Judge, a slave who successfully escaped her supposedly benevolent masters, George and Martha Washington.

BIOG E444 .D86 2017X



Rising Star: The Making of Barack Obama

By David J. Garrow

This book presents a comprehensive and controversial biography of former President

Barack Obama.

BIOG E908.3 G37 2017x

The Song and the Silence: A Story About Family, Race, and What Was Revealed in a Small Town in the Mississippi Delta While Searching for Booker Wright

By Yvette Johnson

Yvette Johnson examines her own family history and Jim Crow racism in 1960s Greenwood, Mississippi, as she discusses the life of her outspoken and subsequently persecuted uncle, Booker Wright.

BIOG E185.96 .J585 2017x



A Surprised Queenhood in the New Black Sun: The Life & Legacy of Gwendolyn Brooks

By Angela Jackson

Fellow Chicagoan Angela Jackson dives deep into the poetry, family stories, and personal papers of prolific poet Gwendolyn Brooks, a protégé of Langston Hughes and a contemporary of Richard Wright.

BIOG PS 3503 .R7244 Z685 2017

EXPRESSIONS



The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story

By Edwidge Danticat

Edwidge Danticat's book is both a discussion of how writers approach death and a memoir about her mother's death from cancer.

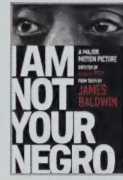
PN 56 .D4 D36 2017x

Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions

By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie offers the daughter of her childhood friend five suggestions on how to become an independent and empowered woman.

HQ1206 .A354 2017X



I Am Not Your Negro: A Major Motion Picture

From texts by James Baldwin; compiled and edited by Raoul Peck

The transcript of the award-winning documentary film in which James Baldwin discusses racism in America.

E185.61 .B196 2017



Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

By Michael Eric Dyson

Michael Eric Dyson believes that in order to make racial progress, white America should reckon with the grievances of African Americans.

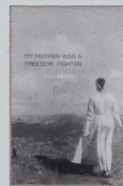
E185.615 .D97 2017x

We Are Never Meeting in Real Life: Essays

By Samantha Irby

Blogger, essayist, and humorist Samantha Irby chronicles the disasters and emotional truths of her life.

PN 2287 .I73 A3 2017



My Mother Was a Freedom Fighter

By Aja Monet

Aja Monet of slam poetry fame delves into the experiences of women, particularly black women, who were shaped by racism and sexism and became warriors in their own right.

PS3613.O52458 M9 2017x



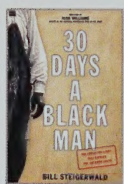
Electric Arches

By Eve L. Ewing

Blending poetry, prose, and mixed-media collage, poet and sociologist Eve Ewing's debut poetry collection tells the coming-of-age story of a young black woman.

PS3605.W553 E44 2017x

HISTORY & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES



30 Days a Black Man: The Forgotten Story That Exposed the Jim Crow South

By Bill Steigerwald

Bill Steigerwald tells the story of how Atlanta-based Civil Rights

activist Wesley Dobbs and Ray Sprigle, a famous white journalist from Pittsburgh, helped expose the shameful system of Southern racial segregation.

E185.61 .S796 2017

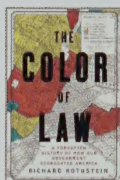


The Blood of Emmett Till

By Timothy B. Tyson

Timothy Tyson explores the true story of what happened to Emmett Till, the African American boy lynched by white men in the Mississippi Delta in 1955.

HV6465 .M7 T97 2017



The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

By Richard Rothstein

Richard Rothstein, an expert on housing policy, makes the case for how local, state, and federal policies caused widespread racial housing discrimination in America.

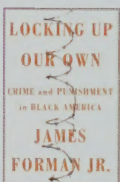
E185.61 .R8185 2017

Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice

By Dr. Willie Parker

Dr. Parker, a Christian obstetrician, explores his belief that poor women should have access to all forms of birth control.

R154 .P258 A3 2017x



Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America

By James Forman Jr.

Former public defender and Yale Law School professor James Forman Jr. analyzes the roles that African Americans play in the war on crime.

HV9950 .F655 2017



We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Ta-Nehisi Coates's collection of personal essays reflects on race and identity in America during Obama's presidency.

E907 .C63 2017x

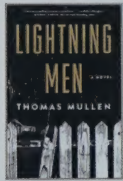
FICTION

And Then There Was Me: A Novel of Friendship, Secrets, and Lies

By [Sadeqa Johnson](#)

This book narrates the journeys of lifelong friends Bea and Awilda.

FICTION JOHNSON S



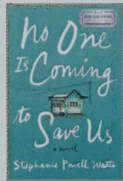
Lightning Men: A Novel

By [Thomas Mullen](#)

Officer Denny Rakestraw and "Negro Officers" Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith battle the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis,

bootleggers, and arson in 1950s segregated Atlanta.

FICTION MULLEN T



No One Is Coming to Save Us: A Novel

By [Stephanie Powell Watts](#)

JJ Ferguson returns to his declining hometown in North Carolina to pursue his now-

married high school sweetheart.

FICTION WATTS S

Passage: A Novel

By [Khary Lazarre-White](#)

Warrior is a young African American man living in New York during the early 1990s who, though surrounded by family, love, and connections, must cope with poor schools and street violence.

FICTION LAZARREW K



Sing, Unburied, Sing: A Novel

By [Jesmyn Ward](#)

Thirteen-year-old Jojo and his young sister struggle to survive their childhood in rural Mississippi. On a road trip, he encounters the ghost of a thirteen-year-old prison inmate.

FICTION WARD J

The Talented Ribkins: A Novel

By [Ladee Hubbard](#)

Johnny Ribkins and his niece Eloise drive around Florida digging up buried money they owe a mob boss.

FICTION HUBBARD L

What We Lose: A Novel

By [Zinzi Clemmons](#)

Thandi was raised in Pennsylvania but her mother is from Johannesburg; as a result, she does not feel like she belongs anywhere.

FICTION CLEMMONS Z



Bluebird, Bluebird: A Novel

By [Attica Locke](#)

In this mystery, African American Texas Ranger Darren Matthews investigates two murders deep in rural East Texas.

MYSTERY LOCKE A

Breathless

By [Beverly Jenkins](#)

Portia Carmichael runs a hotel in the Arizona Territory. She reconnects with childhood friend Kent Randolph and learns to trust him with her heart. A romance.

ROMANCE JENKINS B



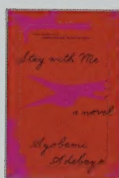
Binti: Home

By Nnedi Okorafor

In this sci fi/fantasy novel, Binti and her friend Okwu return to face her friends and family on

Earth, her home planet.

SCIFIFANTASY OKORAFOR N



Stay With Me

By Ayobami Adebayo

Yejide and Akin met and married while in college. But after Yejide is unable to conceive a child, her

parents introduce the couple to

Akin's second wife.

FICTION ADEBAYO A

INTERNATIONAL FICTION



Behold the Dreamers: A Novel

By Imbolo Mbue

In 2007 New York, immigrants Jende and Neni Jonga get positions in the household of Wall Street executive Clark

Edwards. Then the 2008 financial collapse changes everyone's lives.

FICTION MBUE I



The Woman Next Door

By Yewande Omotoso

Two widowed elderly neighbors, one black and the other white, share a hedge and a long feud until unexpected events bring

them together.

FICTION OMOTOSO Y



Foreign Soil and other Stories

By Maxine Beneba Clarke

In this collection set in Africa, London, the West Indies, and Australia, Maxine Benebe

Clarke tells stories about the

disenfranchised, the lost, and the mistreated.

FICTION CLARKE M

Hum If You Don't Know the Words

By Bianca Marais

In 1970s Johannesburg, Robin Conrad, an orphaned white nine-year-old girl, is sent to live with her irresponsible aunt and is cared for by Beauty Mbali, a Xhosa woman from a rural Bantu village.

FICTION MARAIS B

TEEN FICTION



The Hate U Give

By Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter struggles to balance her life in the inner city and her elite suburban prep school.

TEEN FICTION THOMAS A



Long Way Down

By Jason Reynolds

Fifteen-year-old Will sets out to avenge the death of his brother Shawn and encounters seven ghosts who reveal truths about

Shawn to Will.

TEEN FICTION REYNOLDS J



Three Piece Meal

By Zane

Psychologist Prodigy Jenkins tests her theory that dating multiple men at one time avoids dating traps and

increases true fulfillment.

URBAN FICTION ZANE

URBAN FICTION



Black President: The World Will Never Be the Same

By Brenda Hampton

St. Louis native Stephen C. Jefferson is elected President of the United States and must

overcome the difficulties within his own family, Congress, and his administration.

URBAN FICTION HAMPTON B



Animal 4.5

By K'wan

Animal embarks on a suicide mission to save his family from the deadly assassin Tiger Lily and the rest of the cartel.

URBAN FICTION KWAN



Never Trust a Stranger

By Mary Monroe

Best friends Lola Poole and Joan Proctor-Riley engage in risqué fantasies with Calvin, an outwardly kind and responsible

truck driver who is hiding a deadly secret.

FICTION MONROE M



Baby Momma Saga Part 1

By Ni'chelle Genovese

This book tells the story of three women and their involvement with hustlers and the family drug trade.

URBAN FICTION GENOVESE N

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The Black Is Booklist is a list of recent books concerning the African American experience. It is published as part of the Boston Public Library's observance of Black History Month each year.